

### **In the Claims**

Please delete Claim 16, and amend Claims 17, 18, 20 and 21 as follows.

1      1. (Canceled).

1      2. (Canceled).

1      3. (Canceled).

1      4. (Withdrawn). A combined warning flag and storage bag as claimed in claim 3, wherein:  
2              a reflective strip is applied to said warning flag and storage bag to render it more visible at  
3      night time.

1      5. (Canceled).

1      6. (Canceled).

1      7. (Withdrawn). A combined warning flag and storage bag as claimed in claim 6, wherein:  
2              the header bar comprises a two-piece body secured along the upper edge portion of the  
3      combined flag and storage bag, with one body portion on one side of the flag and the other body  
4      portion on the opposite side, and the flag clamped therebetween.

1 8. (Withdrawn). A combined warning flag and storage bag as claimed in claim 7, wherein:

2 the header bar has hook-receiving openings formed therein for receiving the hooked ends of  
3 a tie-down strap, whereby the tie-down strap may be attached to the header bar to serve as a handle  
4 for the combined warning flag and storage bag.

1 9. (Withdrawn). A combined warning flag and storage bag as claimed in claim 8, wherein:

2 the header bar has additional hook-receiving openings therein for attachment of the hooked  
3 ends of additional tie-down straps for securing the combined flag and storage bag to an object.

1 10. (Withdrawn). A combined warning flag and storage bag as claimed in claim 9, wherein:

2 the two body portions of the header bar each have a longitudinally extending retaining  
3 channel portion formed therein, said retaining channel portions being in aligned registry with one  
4 another on opposite sides of the upper edge portion of the combined flag and bag, and clamping said  
5 upper edge portion therebetween, said upper edge portion having a thickened seam portion thereon  
6 which is received in said retaining channel.

1 11. (Withdrawn). A combined warning flag and storage bag as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

2 said stitched-together body of material defines a closed loop along the upper edge of the  
3 combined warning flag and storage bag; and

4 said header bar is an elongate, rigid rod received in said closed loop.

1 12. (Withdrawn). A combined warning flag and storage bag as claimed in claim 11, wherein:

grommets are placed in said body of material at locations spaced along the upper edge and spaced inwardly from the position of said rigid rod, for receiving the hooked ends of tie-down straps to secure the combined flag and bag to an object.

13. (Withdrawn). A combined warning flag and storage bag as claimed in claim 12, wherein:

reinforced cut-outs are formed in said looped end at two spaced locations along the upper edge of the combined flag and bag, in communication with said rigid rod inserted therein, for receiving the hooked ends of a strap, whereby the hooked ends engage the rod, which supports the hooked ends to enable the strap to serve as a handle for the combined flag and bag.

14. (Withdrawn). A combined warning flag and storage bag as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

the body of material comprises a weather-resistant material lined on the inside surface with a water-repellant coating.

15. (Withdrawn). A combined warning flag and storage bag as claimed in claim 14, wherein:

the header bar has indicia-receiving means thereon for placement of a company logo and the like.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended). A combined warning flag and storage bag, comprising:

a bag having a hollow interior and an access opening;

3        a rigid member extending along a top edge of the bag; and  
4        means for securing the bag to an object;  
5        wherein said bag comprises a body of open mesh material stitched along opposite side edges  
6        to form said hollow interior, said body having free ends secured to said rigid member on opposite  
7        sides thereof.

8        ~~A combined warning flag and storage bag as claimed in Claim 16,~~ wherein the rigid member  
9        further comprises a generally rectangularly shaped body ~~having portion, and~~ a relatively thin,  
10       depending flange having opposite sides; and

11       said flange is ~~secured~~ placed between the free ends of the bag, and each of said free ends is  
12       secured to one of said sides.

1       18. (Currently Amended). A combined warning flag and storage bag as claimed in Claim 17,  
2       wherein:

3       the rectangularly shaped body portion of the rigid member has a plurality of openings  
4       extended transversely therethrough for receiving tie-down straps or other fasteners; and

5       at least one opening formed through an upper edge thereof for receiving ~~and~~ an end of a strap  
6       to function as an angle or as a tie-down means.

1       19. (Canceled).

1       20. (Currently Amended). A storage bag for storing small items, comprising:

2       a hollow body formed of open weave mesh material, said body having front and back sides,

3 a closed bottom, an a closed top;

4 an elongated rigid header bar secured to the closed top and retaining the shape of the bag in  
5 unfolded condition, said header bar serving as a means for attaching the bag to a support, and for  
6 attaching a handle to the bag;

7 a closable opening formed through the front side of the bag near closed top, through which  
8 items may be placed in the bag and retrieved therefrom; and

9 said open weave mesh material comprising PVC plastic, thereby rendering the bag resistant  
10 to the effects of water and ultraviolet radiation and enabling the bag to dry quickly and preventing  
11 collection of water therein, whereby the bag is specially suitable for marine use;

12 wherein:

13 the header bar has hook-receiving openings formed therethrough for receiving fasteners to  
14 secure the bag to a support; and

15 said header bar has a generally flat, rectangular ~~configuration, with upper body portion, and~~  
16 a relatively thin, depending flange, said flange having opposite sides being secured ~~in the open end~~  
17 to the close top of the bag ~~to attach the bag to the header bar and to close the closed end of the bag.~~

1 21. (Currently Amended). A storage bag comprising:

2 a body of material stitched along opposite side edges to form a hollow interior and having  
3 an access opening;

4 a rigid member having opposite sides extending along a top edge of the bag;

5 means for securing the bag to an object; ~~and~~

6 said body having free ends each being secured to a side of said rigid member ~~on opposite side~~

7      thereof; and

8            a pair of reinforcing bands placed astride said free ends.